

R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, and C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆hydroxyalkyl, SC₁₋₆alkyl, C(O)H, C(O)C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl, and C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and

R³ is C₁₋₆alkyl or NH₂.

2. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₁₋₆alkoxy; R² is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R³ is C₁₋₃alkyl or NH₂.

3. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, C₁₋₃alkyl, and C₁₋₃alkoxy; R² is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R³ is methyl or NH₂.

4. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, C₁₋₃alkyl and C₁₋₃alkoxy; R¹ is H; R² is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R³ is methyl or NH₂.

5. (Twice Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ is at the 3- or 4- position of the phenyl ring; and R² is at the 6- position of the pyridine ring.

6. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-benzenesulfonamide;

3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-
benzenesulfonamide;

and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

7. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;

sodium salt of N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-
a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-(2-
methoxyacetyl)benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-
propionylbenzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-
isobutyrylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-benzoyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]benzenesulfonamide;

methyl 4-[{4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]phenyl}sulfonyl]amino]-4-oxobutanoate;

4-[{4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-
yl]phenyl}sulfonyl]amino]-4-oxobutanoic acid;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-
pentanoylbenzenesulfonamide;

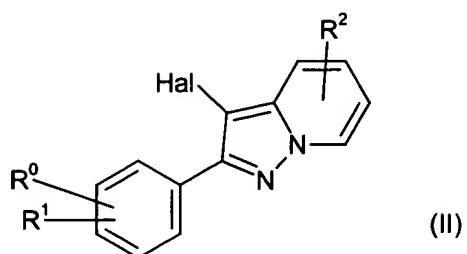
2-[{4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl acetate;
N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
N-(2-chloroacetyl)-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
N-[2-(diethylamino)acetyl]-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
methyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate; and
tert-butyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate.

8. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

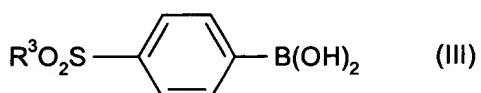
4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-methyl-2-phenyl -3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

9. (Amended) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

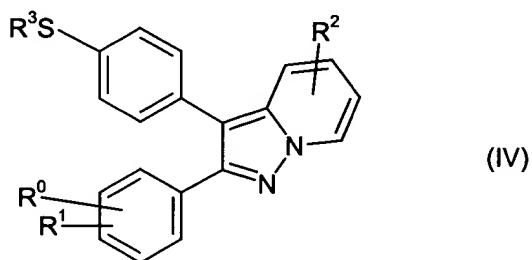
13. (Amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative as claimed in claim 1.

14. (Amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

17. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁰ is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, methyl and ethoxy; R¹ is H; R² is trifluoromethyl; and R³ is methyl or NH₂.

18. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) where R^3 represents C_{1-4} -alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)

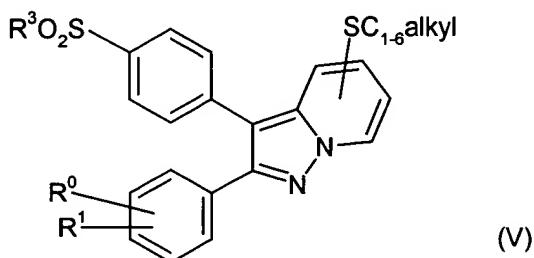


or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

19. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) where R^2 is C_{1-6} -alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)

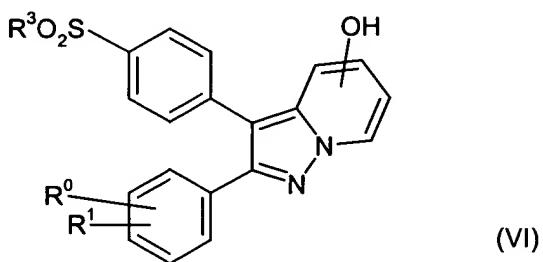


or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

20. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) where R^2 is C_1 -alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)

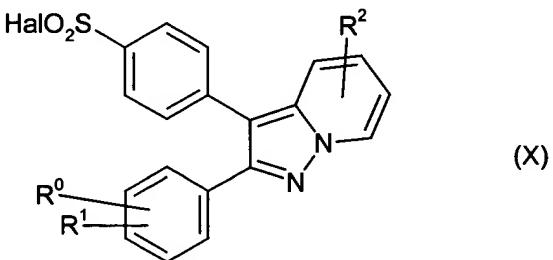


or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

21. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) where R^3 is NH_2 , reacting a compound of formula (X)



with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
22. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:
- (A) interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and
- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
23. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:
- (A) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and
- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
24. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.
25. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.
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26. (Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition or disease selected from the group consisting of pain, fever and inflammation mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2, said method comprising

administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein said condition or disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatic fever, symptoms associated with influenza or other viral infections, lower back pain, neck pain, headache, toothache, sprains, strains, myositis, neuropathic pain, synovitis, arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, osteoarthritis, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, tendinitis, bursitis, psoriasis, eczema, burns, dermatitis, sports injuries, injuries arising from surgical procedures and injuries arising from dental procedures.

28. (Amended) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of a human subject suffering from pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

29. (Amended) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of a human subject suffering from arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

30. (Amended) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition involving inflammatory processes, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said condition involving inflammatory processes are selected from the group consisting of asthma, allergic rhinitis, respiratory distress syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, gastritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis, vascular disease, migraine, periarthritis nodosa, thyroiditis, aplastic anemia, Hodgkin's disease, sclerodema, type I diabetes, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, nephrotic syndrome, Bechet's syndrome, polymyositis, gingivitis, conjunctivitis and myocardial ischemia.

31. (Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from a cognitive disorder, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.